
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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GOVERNOR'S BUDGET HEARING — IOWA PUBLIC TELEVISION

Budget Hearing. On December 11, 2017, Governor Kim Reynolds held a budget hearing for Iowa Public Television (IPTV). Executive Director Molly Phillips highlighted IPTV's achievements during the past year, noting that nearly 2.0 million people watch IPTV each month and more than 300,000 children watch PBS KIDS on IPTV. She also noted the other means by which people watch IPTV's programming, including on the IPTV website and on YouTube.

Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request. Executive Director Phillips presented the FY 2019 budget request for IPTV, which includes:

- An increase of \$147,500 to the General Fund appropriation to restore overnight broadcast service. Executive Director Phillips noted that the suspension of overnight operation in 2010 was an effective way to address a budget shortfall, primarily through reduced utility usage, but it is now increasing costs due to stress on the transmitters and equipment from daily shutting down and powering up.
- A capitals request totaling \$1.1 million, which includes the following in order of priority:
 - \$500,000 for NetVX replacement
 - \$33,000 for clip store replacement for the Production Control Room
 - \$250,000 for replacement ambers for all transmitter sites
 - \$133,000 for transmitter remote control replacement
 - \$23,000 for replacement loggers for the Masstech system, with stream analyzer
 - \$150,000 for the media asset management system (Phase 1)
 - \$35,000 for a media server for Production
 - \$12,000 for the analog-to-digital conversion for library transfers, including noise reduction and deinterlacing

Discussion. Iowa Public Television staff responded to questions from the Governor and her staff regarding some of the educational services and children's programming. Department of Management Director David Roederer complimented the agency on its strategic planning process. It was noted that *Iowa Press* is the most watched local program on IPTV throughout the year, but that the State Fair coverage surpasses it during the course of the Fair. The most popular nationally produced program this year has been Ken Burns' *The Vietnam War*.

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